

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1068

By Ramsey

A RESOLUTION to recognize Rick Shepard on the occasion of his retirement.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this legislative body should honor those citizens who have performed with uncommon devotion and enthusiasm throughout their careers; and

WHEREAS, Rick Shepard is one such estimable person, who served with distinction for thirty-eight years as a banker in Knox and Blount counties, including twenty-two years of service as regional president of SunTrust Bank and ten years of service as Blount County president of United Community Bank; he recently embarked upon a much-deserved retirement; and

WHEREAS, a fifth-generation Blount County native, Rick Shepard grew up on a small family farm in Wildwood; he served faithfully with the Tennessee Air National Guard for over twenty years and is a Gulf War veteran; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Shepard is an active and important part of his community and his profession, participating in numerous worthy organizations, including Knox Area Rescue Mission, and lending his support to the Blount County Education Foundation, serving as treasurer, and the Knoxville/Maryville College Community Campaign; and

WHEREAS, a trusted community leader, Mr. Shepard has been appointed to serve as an election commissioner for Blount County and has served on the board of directors and as board chair of both Leadership Blount and the Blount County Chamber of Commerce; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Shepard has worked extensively with United Way of Blount County as a member of the executive board from 1999-2007 and a member of the campaign cabinet since 2014, serving as chair for the Pace Setters division and campaign chair; during his tenure as board chair in 2007 and campaign chair in 2016, he helped hundreds of volunteers raise over \$2 million for the community; and

WHEREAS, Rick Shepard has also contributed his time and numerous talents to various organizations that serve children, such as New Hope Children's Advocacy Center, serving as a donor, board member, and board chair; Secret Safe Place for Newborns, serving as a donor and community volunteer; and the Smoky Mountain Executive Board of the Boy Scouts of America, serving as a donor and member; and

WHEREAS, he has also worked with events and organizations that focus on health care, serving as co-chair of the Good Samaritan Health Clinic Gala, fundraising for and chairing the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life event in Blount County, and serving on the East Tennessee American Cancer Society Leadership Council; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to awards and accolades, Rick Shepard was the 2010 recipient of the Community Leadership Award from Leadership Blount; and

WHEREAS, a man of faith, Mr. Shepard is a member of New Providence Presbyterian Church; and

WHEREAS, throughout his many successes, Rick Shepard has been blessed with the love, support, and companionship of his wife of thirty-three years, Cindy Laughmiller; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Shepard exemplifies the spirit and allegiance to family and community that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, throughout his estimable career, Mr. Shepard has demonstrated the utmost professionalism, ability, and integrity, winning the sincere respect and admiration of his colleagues and a grateful public as well; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED TENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we extend to Rick Shepard our heartfelt wishes for a happy and fulfilling retirement and every continued success in his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.